

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01

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R 200900 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8887

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

COMUSMACV

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4554

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 1 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW FOR MARCH 13-19, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE FOLLOWING TRANSMITS MR 1 WEEKLY OVERVIEW FOR PERIOD MARCH 13-19, 1973. POCTIONS DEALING WITH ICCS ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED

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AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.

1. THE PAST WEEK SAW A GENERAL STABILIZATION AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN MR 1. ON MARCH 10, KIA CASUALTIES DROPPED TO A NEAR RECORD LOW OF 16 FRIENDLY AND 7 ENEMY. ON THE SAME DATE ARVN ARTILLERY FIRES WERE ONLY 2,001 ROUNDS, THE LOWEST DAILY RATE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR.

2. A CLEAR ATTEMPT BY THE I CORPS COMMANDER TO RESTRAIN GVN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESIDENT THIEU'S RECENT DIRECTIVE WAS EVIDENT. THE COMMUNISTS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO REPAIR OLD ROUTES AND BUILD NEW ACCESS ROADS IN WESTERN QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN, AND TO MOVE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT INTO AREAS UNDER THEIR CONTROL. ENEMY FORCES CONTINUE TO MOVE AS CLOSE AS THEY ARE ABLE TO FRIENDLY LINES.

3. A GOOD PORTION OF ENEMY ABFS TOOK PLACE IN THE AIRBORNE DIV. AO TO THE SOUTHWEST OF QUANG TRI CITY. THE NVA CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO CROSS THE THACH HAN RIVER IN THE AIRBORNE AO AND SUBSTANTIAL FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE INCURRED. THE ENEMY CONTINUED LIGHT- TO- MODERATE PRESSURE ALL ALONG THE 1 ST DIV. AO IN THUA THIEN, PROBING FOR WEAK SPOTS IN THE FRIENDLY LINES. THERE WERE NO CHANGES IN THE LINES OF BATTLE NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS DURING THE PAST WEEK.

4. IN THE SOUTH SPORADIC CONTACT CONTINUED TO TAKE PLACE IN QUANG NAM'S " ARIZONA TERRITORY" AND ON GO NOI ISLAND. IN THE QUE SON VALLEY THE ARVN 2 ND DIV. AND NVA 711 TH JABBED AT EACH OTHER THROUGH ABFS AND SEVERAL BRISK GROUND ENGAGEMENTS. IN QUANG TIN GVN FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE MADE SOME HEADWAY IN CLEARING LOCAL COMMUNIST FORCES OUT OF THE " PINEAPPLE" AREA WEST OF TAM KY AND IN THE PIEDMONT OF TIEN PHUOC DISTRICT. THERE WERE NUMEROUS SMALL INSTANCES OF VIOLENCE IN QUANG NGAI DURING THE WEEK ON THE BATANGAN PENINSULA, IN WESTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS, SOUTHWARD ALONG QL 1 IN MO DUC AND DUC PHO. ONE SERIOUS MINING INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 13 WHEN A CIVILIAN TRUCK DETONATED A MINE 10 KMS. SOUTH OF DUC PHO TOWN ON QL 1, KILLING 3 AND WOUNDING A DOZEN PASSENGERS. AN ICCS INSPECTION TEAM HAD TRAVERSED THIS SECTION OF QL 1 JUST 17 DAYS BEFORE, AND THE MINING CONSTITUTED ONE OF THE

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MORE FLAGRANT EXAMPLES OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS BY THE COMMUNISTS.

5. THE GVN BEGAN TO RE- ESTABLISH A CIVILIAN PRESENCE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE. SINCE MARCH 16, THE GVN HAS MOVED APPROXIMATELY 2,500 PEOPLE OUT OF DANANG REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE FIRST OFFICIAL RETURN OF REFUGEES TO QUANG TRI SINCE MAY 1972. GVN AUTHORITIES PLAN TO CONTINUE THIS MOVEMENT OVER THE NEXT MONTH.

6. IN QUANG TRI CITY ITSELF, THE PROVINCE CHIEF HAS ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE FROM WHICH HE HOPES TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT ICCS TEAM. WHILE THE GVN ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL PRESENCE IN THE DEVASTATED PROVINCE CAPITAL REMAINS MINIMAL, THESE GESTURES HAVE CONCRETE POLITICAL VALUE IN ESTABLISHING GVN CADRE IN AN AREA PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY ONLY MARINES AND AIRBORNE TROOPERS.
BUNKER

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